

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed March 11, 2004 ("Office Action") in patent application Serial No. 10/085,782.

Claims 9-14, 19, 20 and 24-27 have been allowed.

Claims 4-8, 15, 17, 18, 21-23 and 28-31 have been cancelled.

Based on the above, it is respectfully requested that Claims 9-14, 19, 20 and 24-27 be passed to issuance.

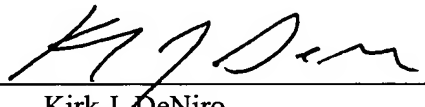
The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 9, 2004

By:

  
Kirk J. DeNiro  
Reg. No. 35,854

VIERRA MAGEN MARCUS HARMON & DENIRO LLP  
685 Market Street, Suite 540  
San Francisco, California 94105-4206  
Telephone: (415) 369-9660 x204  
Facsimile: (415) 369-9665